

We claim:

1. A method comprising:

- while at least a first node communicates via a communication network to a group comprising a plurality of other nodes:

5 - determining that at least some of the other nodes desire to communicate to the group;

 - queuing the other nodes that desire to communicate to the group to provide a queue;

10 - subsequent to when the first node communicates via the communication network to the group:

 - determining that at least one of the other nodes has recently indicated a desire to communicate to the group;

15 - modifying the queue in accordance with predetermined criteria and as a function, at least in part, of any recently expressed desires to communicate to the group to provide a modified queue;

 - using the modified queue to facilitate a communication via the communication network from a node comprising a part of the group to other nodes in the group.

20 2. The method of claim 1 wherein at least some of the other nodes comprise wireless mobile nodes.

25 3. The method of claim 1 wherein determining that at least some of the other nodes desire to communicate to the group includes receiving communications from the at least some of the other nodes indicating the desire to communicate to the group.

30 4. The method of claim 1 wherein queuing the other nodes that desire to communicate to the group to provide a queue includes queuing the other nodes as a function, at least in part, of when the other nodes indicate the desire to communicate to the group.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein queuing the other nodes as a function, at least in part, of when the other nodes indicate the desire to communicate to the group includes placing the other nodes in the queue in order of when each of the other nodes indicates the desire to communicate to the group.

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6. The method of claim 1 wherein queuing the other nodes that desire to communicate to the group to provide a queue includes queuing the other nodes as a function, at least in part, of a number of instances each of the other nodes indicates the desire to communicate to the group.

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7. The method of claim 6 wherein queuing the other nodes as a function, at least in part, of a number of instances each of the other nodes indicates the desire to communicate to the group includes queuing the other nodes as a function, at least in part, of a number of instances each of the other nodes indicates the desire to communicate to the group within a particular window of time.

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8. The method of claim 7 wherein queuing the other nodes as a function, at least in part, of a number of instances each of the other nodes indicates the desire to communicate to the group within a particular window of time includes queuing the other nodes as a function, at least in part, of a number of instances each of the other nodes indicates the desire to communicate to the group within a particular window of time having a predetermined duration.

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9. The method of claim 7 wherein queuing the other nodes as a function, at least in part, of a number of instances each of the other nodes indicates the desire to communicate to the group within a particular window of time includes queuing the other nodes as a function, at least in part, of a number of instances each of the other nodes indicates the desire to communicate to the group within a particular window of time during which the first node communicates via the communication network to the group.

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10. The method of claim 1 wherein queuing the other nodes that desire to communicate to the group to provide a queue includes queuing the other nodes as a function, at least in part, of a predetermined priority as corresponds to at least one of the other nodes.

5 11. The method of claim 10 wherein queuing the other nodes as a function, at least in part, of a predetermined priority as corresponds to at least one of the other nodes includes receiving predetermined priority information from a remote source.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein receiving predetermined priority information from a remote source includes receiving predetermined priority information from a remote source comprising at least one of:

- an authorization, authentication, and accounting platform;
- a session initiation protocol registrar; and
- a session initiation protocol server.

15 13. The method of claim 1 wherein determining that at least one of the other nodes has recently indicated a desire to communicate to the group includes determining that at least one of the other nodes has recently indicated a desire to communicate to the group during a predetermined window of time.

20 14. The method of claim 1 wherein modifying the queue in accordance with predetermined criteria and as a function, at least in part, of any recently expressed desires to communicate to the group to provide a modified queue includes repositioning at least one queued other node in the queue as a function of the recently expressed desire to communicate to the group.

25 15. The method of claim 14 wherein repositioning at least one queued other node in the queue as a function of the recently expressed desire to communicate to the group includes placing most highly in the modified queue a particular other node that recently expressed the desire to communicate to the group and that was highest in the queue as compared to other nodes that were also in the queue and that also expressed a recent desire to communicate to the group.

16. The method of claim 1 wherein modifying the queue in accordance with predetermined criteria and as a function, at least in part, of any recently expressed desires to communicate to the group to provide a modified queue includes providing a predetermined criteria based, at least in part, upon a vote as provided by at least
5 some of the nodes that comprise the group.

17. An apparatus comprising:
- an interface operably coupleable to a communications network used by a plurality of nodes to facilitate a conference;
10 - a receiver operably coupled to the interface;
- a node queue operably coupled to the receiver and having a queue of nodes that have expressed, while a first node is transmitting to the plurality of nodes during the conference, a desire to communicate to the nodes during the conference;
- a node queue modifier operably coupled to the receiver and the node queue and
15 being responsive to transmissions from the nodes, which transmissions are made subsequent to when the first node is transmitting to the plurality of nodes during the conferences.

18. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the apparatus comprises, at least in part, a
20 packet data service node.

19. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein at least some of the plurality of nodes comprise wireless mobile nodes.

20. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the node queue modifier includes
25 modification means for modifying the queue as a function, at least in part, of the transmissions from the nodes, which transmissions are made subsequent to when the first node is transmitting to the plurality of nodes during the conference.

21. The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the transmissions made subsequent to when
30 the first node is transmitting comprise, at least in part, requests to communicate during the conference.

22. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the modification means is further for modifying the queue such that a particular node which made a transmission indicating a desire to communicate during the conference and that was a most highly queued node in the node queue amongst other nodes that also transmitted a desire to communicate subsequent to when the first node is transmitting will be placed most highly in the queue.

23. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the queue of nodes further reflects non-time related prioritization as corresponds to at least one of the nodes.

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24. A method of selecting a next node of a group of nodes to communicate to the group of nodes, comprising:

- noting first information regarding at least some of the group of nodes that indicate a desire, during a first period of time, to communicate to the group of nodes;
- 15 - noting second information regarding at least one of the group of nodes that indicates a desire, during a second period of time, which second period of time is at least partially subsequent to the first period of time, to communicate to the group of nodes;
- using both the first information and the second information to facilitate selection of
- 20 a next node to communicate to the group of nodes.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein noting first information includes queuing in a queue requests from the group of nodes to communicate to the group of nodes as a function, at least in part, of an order such requests are received.

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26. The method of claim 25 wherein using both the first information and the second information to facilitate selection of a next node to communicate to the group of nodes includes selecting a particular node, when present, that indicated the desire to communicate to the group of nodes during the second period of time and that was most highly queued in the queue with respect to other nodes that also indicated the

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desire to communicate to the group of nodes during the second period of time.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein the first period of time corresponds to when a particular node is communicating to the group of nodes.

28. The method of claim 27 wherein the second period of time corresponds to a time that is subsequent to when the particular node is communicating to the group of nodes.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein the second period of time comprises a predetermined length of time.

30. The method of claim 29 wherein the first period of time comprises one of:
- a predetermined length of time; and
- a length of time that corresponds to a length of time that the particular node is communicating to the group of nodes.

31. The method of claim 24 wherein using both the first information and the second information to facilitate selection of a next node to communicate to the group of nodes includes also using vote information from at least some of the group of nodes regarding a preferred next node to communicate to the group of nodes.

32. A method comprising:
- prior to a first predetermined communications event:
 - determining that at least some nodes amongst a group of nodes desire to communicate to the group;
- queuing the nodes that desire to communicate to the group to provide a queue;
- subsequent to first predetermined communications event:
 - determining that at least one of the nodes has recently indicated a desire to communicate to the group;
 - modifying the queue in accordance with predetermined criteria and as a function, at least in part, of any recently expressed desires to communicate to the group to provide a modified queue;
- using the modified queue to facilitate a communication via a communication network from a node comprising a part of the group to other nodes in the group.